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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 16 | Humidity 51% Clear sky Sensex 75,838 | Nifty 23,045 | Gold 78,973 | Silver 91,836 | Dollar 86.60 | Euro 89.74 | GBP 106.14

Just 6.96% of total money lost to cybercrime was recovered last year; freezing of funds is only bright lining in complicated scams that are tough nuts to crack

BLIP IN THE MATRIX

Geographical restrictions, legislative challenges prove big barriers

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2024 extracted a heavy price from Bengalureans in terms of cybercrime -- ₹19,98,48,71,094 was lost to fraud in 2024. Despite ongoing efforts to combat the issue, only ₹1,39,04,01,698 has been recovered so far, that is a meager recovery rate of just 6.96%. Experts attribute this low recovery rate to geographical restrictions and legislative challenges.

One of the few bright spots in this troubling trend is the freezing of funds, with ₹6,52,22,91,678 locked in fraudulent accounts following swift intervention. However, experts point out that the surge in cybercrime is driven by several factors, including the growing dependence on digital transactions, a lack of cybersecurity awareness among the public, and the constant evolution of fraudulent tactics.

"When an officer needs to pursue a cybercriminal in another state, the expenses for travel, accommodation, and other logistics can exceed ₹60,000 per case, even if the victim's loss is just ₹50,000

Common scams include phishing, investment fraud, UPI-based fraud, and identity theft.

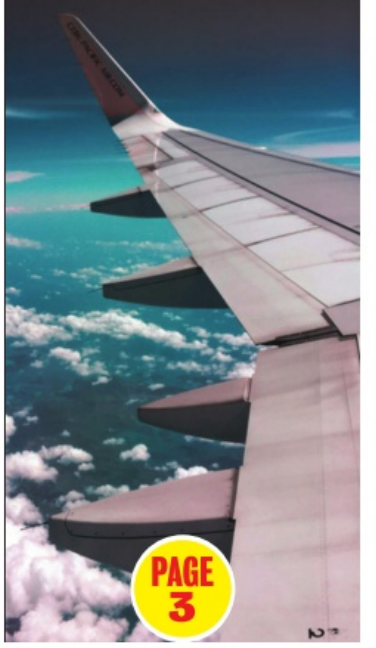
Cybercriminals are increasingly leveraging advanced tools, such as artificial intelligence, to create more convincing scams.

The primary challenge, however, lies not just in detecting these crimes but in recovering the stolen funds, which often pass through multiple accounts, making the trace difficult.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

FLIGHT RISK

Cases emerge of people using forged tickets to enter airport for reasons ranging from serious to trivial



PAGE 3

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN HEALTHCARE SUMMIT '25

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THINGS TO DO

01 Say cheers

The 5th edition of India Cocktail Week (ICW), the country's biggest celebration of craft cocktails, live music, and culinary delights, is here. The event promises a thrilling mix of signature cocktails, innovative mixology, & immersive experiences from leading global & homegrown brands, a lineup of top music acts, and will have a retail alley. **Where: Bhartiya Mall, Bengaluru; When: February 1 & 2, 2 pm to 10 pm**

02 Classical dance fest

The 20th edition of the 'Drishti National Dance Festival 2025,' celebrating Indian classical dance forms, will feature special Bharatanatyam, Odissi, & Yakshagana performances by renowned ensembles. Renowned Yakshagana artist Keremane Shivananda Hegde will be bestowed the 'Drishti Puraskar' during the fest. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval; When: January 25, 6 pm**

03 Solo debut

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesham of Jarvinya Saumil Shah, daughter of Fenny Saumil Shah and Saumil Rajesh Shah & a disciple of Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik. This grand event marks her formal debut as a solo Bharatanatyam dancer. **Where: Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: January 26, 9 am to 1 pm**

04 Special brunch

Braveheart Brunch: A celebration of nationhood and unity with a specially curated brunch where each dish offers a holistic journey through our motherland's diverse flavours, featuring nostalgic dishes from every corner of the country. **Where: Klinx, Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks When: January 26, 12:30 pm to 4 pm**

05 Who's got talent?

Unique Kids Talent Show & Carnival: A day full of creativity, excitement, and unforgettable moments for every young performer to shine! From singing and dancing to acrobatics, taekwondo, thrilling games, creative workshops, cosplay event and much more, children can showcase their unique talents for a chance to win exciting prizes. **Where: Embassy Academy, near MS Engineering College, Devanahalli When: January 25, 12 pm to 6 pm**

Obesity assessment? Don't just go by body mass index

Study reveals BMI alone to be insufficient for assessing obesity; city doctor explains larger health risks behind factors contributing to obesity in Indians

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A recent report highlighted the inaccuracy of body mass index (BMI) as a standalone measure for assessing obesity. City doctors have further stressed BMI to be one of many indicators for assessing obesity.

The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology's recent report has recommended that healthcare professionals should rely on advanced tools or alternative measurements, such as waist circumference or direct body fat analysis, for a more accurate evaluation of obesity. Reacting to the findings, Dr. G. Moinoddin, Consultant—Bariatric & Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Millers Road, stressed that BMI is just one of many indicators for assessing obesity.

"BMI provides only a single value and doesn't capture the complete picture. When an obese patient visits our outpatient department, we focus on their overall metabolic burden, which includes diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, snoring, sleep apnea, and hypothyroidism. These collectively define obesity," he explained.

Contributing factors

Dr Moinoddin further noted that Indians, even with a relatively low BMI, often carry a significant metabolic burden due to higher levels of visceral fat. This predisposition makes them more susceptible to diseases like diabetes. Waist circumference, he pointed out, is a critical metric. "Patients with low BMI but larger waist circumferences, particularly above 0.9 in women, face increased health risks," he added.

He also stressed the importance of the Basal Metabolic Rate (BMR), which is inversely proportional to obesity. "BMR, which reflects the energy expended while at rest, plays a crucial role. A lower BMR often correlates with higher obesity levels," he said. Additionally, fat distribution in the body, particularly central fat around the stomach and fat around the neck and upper respiratory regions, poses higher health risks, regardless of BMI.

Genetic predisposition and lifestyle factors also contribute significantly to obesity. "Family history plays a critical role in determining obesity. Patients with a genetic predisposition may appear less obese initially but are more likely to gain significant weight over time. Moreover, individuals with sedentary lifestyles are at a higher risk of weight gain," he said, adding that there was a need for a comprehensive approach to assessing obesity, considering multiple factors beyond BMI to provide better diagnosis and care for patients.

Key components of new obesity guidelines

The updated guidelines stress abdominal obesity as a critical diagnostic factor due to its strong link with insulin resistance, particularly in Indians. Comorbid conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular disease are included in the diagnosis to address associated health risks.

BMI provides only a single value; genetic predisposition & lifestyle factors also largely contribute to obesity in humans

Mechanical issues, such as knee and hip osteoarthritis or shortness of breath, are also considered, given their impact on quality of life.

BMI classifications have been revised, with normal BMI set between 18.5-22.99 kg/m², and obesity categorized into four grades: Grade I (23-24.9 kg/m²), Grade II (25-27.5 kg/m²), Grade III (27.6-32.4 kg/m²), and Grade IV (≥32.5 kg/m²). For abdominal obesity, waist circumference and waist-to-height ratio (W-HtR) are recommended as more reliable measures than the waist-to-hip ratio. The cutoff values for abdominal obesity are a waist circumference greater than 90 cm for men and 80 cm for women and a W-HtR above 0.5.

Anweshana–Redrawing the lines around theatre in city

Bengaluru-based theatre group Forum Three celebrated its 50th anniversary with a theatre fest, 'Anweshana,' deftly juxtaposing theatre, music, dance, mime, and poetry. In their endeavour they were joined by their members, who have made it big in the film and television industry, namely, Gulshan Devaiah, Sihi Kahi Chandru, Ajith Hande, Avinav Viswanathan, Snehith Gowda, who professed their learnings from Ranjon Ghoshal at Forum Three during their past involvement with the group.

Held at Alliance Francaise on January 18 & 19, various groups were part of the special event. The band, known as Esperanto, in its new avatar Ganga Maiya Trio, enthralled the audience with a fantastic melange of Saraswati Veena, an acoustic and an electric guitar. In rapid succession followed JuzzBaatein, a set of five-minute piercing vignettes by Forum Three members; 'Hum Bihar Mein Chunav Lad Rahein Hain' a solo act that left the audience mesmerised with its competent juggling of content and histrionics of high calibre, melding to offer a racy piece on Indian politics. The first day ended with Forum Three's latest production, 'Kohinoor.'

KAUSHIK JN

Forum Three celebrated its 50th anniversary with a two-day theatre festival, 'Anweshana,' last week at Alliance Franchise

The second day saw a range of stellar acts, including 'Abhisharee Raai,' an elegant Mohiniattam performance interpreting Tagore songs, followed by 'Sonnets of Silence,' a cluster of mime pieces that provoked the audience to think of contemporary issues. Moreover, with a series of poignant JuzzBaatein vignettes and an open mic session, three theatre groups were a delicious treat to all. The play 'Daag' by Dramarsis took the audience into the soul of a struggling young tailor. 'Adhvanika' by First Drop Theatre gave a twist to journeys real and surreal, and 'Tape Recorder' by Illuminating Windows was a splendid ending act of the festival.

Forum Three is now set to celebrate its golden anniversary throughout 2025 at different venues in Bengaluru, in different formats and scales.

For more than a month, with an autorickshaw as the central visual, the promotion for this event embracing the theme of 'taking theatre to the masses,' has been going on in a very unique manner. The event posters were being circulated on autos and performances were held inside autos at different pockets of the city. Saplings were also planted to inaugurate the event. Among the audience were the drivers of the autos carrying 'Anweshana' posters, fulfilling a dream of this 50-year-old group. **— BMB**

They haven't got a ticket to fly

Cases of people using fabricated tickets at airport in focus after man apprehended trying to fly to Jeddah

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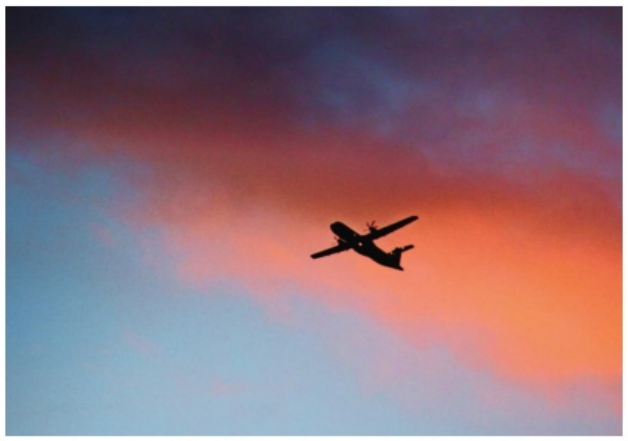

At least 5 cases involving passengers with forged papers trying to board flights or misusing airport facilities in past 6 months

The Kempegowda International Airport security personnel apprehended a private firm employee, Syed Abdul Subhan, on Sunday for entering the airport premises using a fake ticket. A resident of Bharati Nagar, Subhan managed to gain access to Terminal 2 with a fabricated ticket to board a flight to Jeddah.

However, neither did he board the flight nor did he have legitimate travel intentions. When he attempted to exit the terminal using the same ticket, alert security officials verified his credentials and confirmed with airline staff that the ticket was forged. He was then arrested and handed over to the airport police.

The Airport police have registered a case against Subhan under Sections 336 (Forgery) and 340 (Fraudulently or dishonestly using as genuine any document or electronic record) of the Bengaluru Police Act. Authorities are now investigating his motives.

Growing concern

This is not an isolated incident. Over the past six months, at least five cases have been reported involving passengers with forged documents attempting to board flights or misusing airport facilities for other motives.

In February 2024, a 27-year-old man was caught at Terminal 1 with a fabricated boarding pass intended to bypass security checks and meet a departing passenger. In April, two men were apprehended using counterfeit e-tickets at the immigration counter for a Dubai-bound flight, following another incident in June where a woman attempted to use a forged visa document alongside her fake ticket to board a flight to Kuala Lumpur.

Motives

Police officials have identified several reasons as to why individuals resort to using fake tickets, driven by a mix of personal circumstances and criminal intent. In some cases, individuals use counterfeit tickets to bypass airport security for unlawful activities such as theft or smuggling contraband. Economic hardship also plays a role, with some travellers forging tickets as a desperate attempt to travel when they cannot afford legitimate ones.

Other motives include avoiding visa restrictions, gaining unauthorised access to restricted areas, or facilitating illegal immigration. In recent cases, it was also revealed that some individuals use fake tickets for trivial reasons, such as seeing off friends or gaining access to restricted areas. These actions, though seemingly harmless, breach airport security protocols and can lead to legal consequences. Additionally, gaps in verification procedures, despite overall robust airport security, can be exploited by skilled forgers.

Recent cases

In 2024, a total of 550 cases of forgery were registered, with 55 of these cases reported in December alone. The use of fake tickets at airports is a serious security breach that poses risks to passenger safety and undermines the integrity of the aviation system.

Muniratna in legal trouble again

MLA Muniratna finds himself in trouble once again as the RMC Yard Police filed an FIR against him, naming him as the primary accused along with six associates for alleged land grabbing and atrocities in Peenya on Monday.

According to the complainant, a resident of the Akkamahadevi slum near Peenya Government Degree College, Muniratna and his associates arrived with a JCB, demolished houses, and assaulted residents who pleaded with him to stop the demolition. The slum houses around 60 families living in makeshift structures.

The complaint further alleges that women were manhandled by the accused while pleading for the demolition to be stopped. Muniratna has been accused of misusing his power to carry out the demolition drive without proper authorisation.

Following the complaint, the police have booked Muniratna and six associates This is not the first time Muniratna has faced legal troubles.

He was arrested in three separate cases last year, including allegations of raping a social worker in September. He has also been accused of honey-trapping politicians. Additionally, Muniratna has faced accusations of using government officials to further his illegal activities. The CID SIT, investigating these cases, had also arrested a police inspector for abetting these crimes.

Darshan's firearm licence on hold

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said on Tuesday that the firearm licence of actor Darshan Thoogudeepa has been temporarily suspended.

Following a notice issued to Darshan seeking an explanation, the decision was made to suspend the licence and direct him to deposit the firearm at the RR Nagar police station.

In December, RR Nagar police requested the cancellation of his licence, citing concerns that Darshan, currently out on bail in a murder case, could use the weapon to intimidate witnesses.

Although Darshan claimed the firearm was necessary for his safety as a celebrity, his explanation was rejected. Police have also challenged Darshan's medical bail on technical grounds, with the matter pending in the Supreme Court. **BMB**

2 arrested for sexual assault, robbery

Two labourers have been arrested for sexually assaulting a woman and robbing her in KR Market by the SJ Park police on Monday. According to the police, the victim who is around 30-year-old and hails from Tamil Nadu was going to Yelahanka to visit a relative. She came to KR Market and was asking about the directions to Yelahanka. The two accused, on the pretext of guiding her, took her to a complex and sexually assaulted her. They also took her phone, cash and gold chain.

Later the victim filed a complaint and the police arrested Ganesh and Shravana. **BMB**

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ಆಶ್ರಮ ರೋಡ, ಆದರ್ಶ ನಗರ,
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SUMMER VACATION-2025
(Eng & Kan Med) Admissions Started for
IV&V
Sainik/Navodaya/Kittur/RMS Coaching
Maths, English, Intelligence (IQ) & GK
VI to X
(Mathematics, Science & English Grammar)
Classes Start from : 02.04.2025

Basavaraj Koulagi
Founder Chairman
2023-24 Result
Sainik Schools - 435
Karnataka - 167
Others States - 268
Navodaya Schools - 102
SSLC
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(143 Students)
Separate Hostel Facility Available For Boys & Girls

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Hebbal Metro corridor has hit land acquisition hurdle

Sarjapur Metro line's multi-modal transport hub faces setbacks due to unresolved land disputes in Amanikere village, delaying progress on ₹28,405-crore project

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The proposed multi-modal transport hub at Hebbal, intended as a key facility for the Hebbal-Sarjapur Metro line (Orange Line), faces delays due to unresolved land acquisition issues.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) is yet to transfer 55 acres of land in Amanikere village to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). This land, meant for a state-of-the-art transport hub with multi-level parking and a depot, remains under dispute due to compensation concerns with private landowners.

Sources said that a private firm had purchased 55.1 acres in the area years ago for a tourism project but failed to execute the plan. Subsequently, KIADB repossessed the land and issued a notice in June 2023, demanding ₹12.10 crore per acre from the company. However, the payment is still pending, which is delaying the handover to BMRCL.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board is yet to transfer 55 acres of land in Amanikere village to BMRCL, sources said

Central Minister intervenes

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported how Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging quick action to resolve the land issue. "A timely decision will control escalating project costs and enhance the quality of life for citizens. The central government is fully supportive of developing Bengaluru, and KIADB should expedite the land transfer to BMRCL," she stated.

Industry leaders raise concerns

TV Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Aarin Capital, has also called on the Chief Minister to allocate 45 acres near Hebbal for the proposed trijunction and transport hub, warning that delays are causing public anxiety. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Pai stressed the project's importance for efficient connectivity.

Project cost and land requirements

The 36-km Hebbal-Sarjapur metro corridor is estimated to cost ₹28,405 crore, with ₹8,080 crore earmarked for land acquisition. Around 161.65 acres are required for the project, including 45 acres for the depot and 6.65 acres for BMRCL staff housing. Acquiring private land will require ₹1,224 crore.

BMRCL management's perspective

A BMRCL official said, "We are facing delays due to certain technical issues in land acquisition," he noted. The project aims to decongest traffic and improve travel efficiency for metro users. However, land acquisition challenges remain a significant roadblock to progress.

Prioritise metro: MLA writes to CM

Meanwhile, Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar on Tuesday had written to the Chief Minister stating, "BMRCL submitted a proposal to the state government in March 2024 to transfer 45 acres under the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) in Hebbal, offering to pay the value fixed by the board. However, delays by the Industries Departments in transferring this land are creating unnecessary doubts, which is not in the public's best interest. Crucial infrastructure decisions must not face delays. I urge you to ensure that no pressures from real estate lobbies influence this matter and that the focus remains on public interest."

Market inauguration finally sets Cox Town footpath free

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For over two decades, pedestrians in Cox Town have been unable to use the footpath along MM Road in front of the Maternity Home. This inconvenience arose when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) relocated vegetable, fish, mutton, and chicken vendors to the footpath to accommodate the construction of a new market. As a result, pedestrians were forced to navigate the busy MM Road, raising concerns about safety and accessibility. For years, vendors held the BBMP authorities responsible for delays in allocating shops at the newly constructed market building. The official inauguration was repeatedly postponed due to incomplete infrastructure works. However, on Friday, CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu officially inaugurated the market by handing over the shop keys to the vendors.

"There was a delay in shifting the vendors to the newly constructed market. I convinced the vendors to shift to the newly constructed market. I told them to select shops among themselves. They have asked for 15 days but I told them to take 20 days to shift to the market building. I want to develop the footpath and also take up developmental works at the Maternity Home," said CV Raman Nagar MLA S Raghu.

Residents expressed relief over the decision to relocate vendors who had been occupying the footpath for years. They noted that the vendors had been operating in unhygienic conditions, creating challenges for pedestrians.

Some of the mutton shops on the footpath on MM Road

> **"I convinced the vendors to shift to the newly constructed market** – MLA S Raghu

"We want to thank our MLA for handing the keys to the shops to the vendors. The newly constructed market has all the facilities including water, electricity, and toilets. I appeal to our MLA to develop the footpath that was occupied by the vendors all these years. I hope the vendors shift their shops to the newly constructed market," said Pratibha Devi, a resident of Cox Town.

The new market has the provision to accommodate 27 shops. These shops are constructed in three rows. Each row has nine shops. The shops in the middle row have doors on both sides.

"I urge all the vendors to shift to the new market as early as possible. A few vendors are trying to continue doing business from the footpath," said N Narayanaswamy, Sarvagna Nagar ward BJP president. Expressing a similar opinion, M Arun Kumar, BJP Secretary (Sarvagna Nagar Ward) said that some vendors did not want to shift to the new market building but MLA S Raghu convinced them to shift to the new market. "I urge all the vendors to shift to the new market to ensure the footpath is neat and clean for the benefit of pedestrians," said Arun Kumar. Meanwhile, MLA S Raghu said, "We have already handed over the keys of allotted shops to the vendors. We will take up the demolition of structures on the footpath put up by vendors after 20 days. The new market has all the facilities. I was told that the sanitary issue is pending. This problem will be solved within a few days by the executive engineer concerned."

Some of the vendors have expressed willingness to shift to the new market as soon as the sanitary and electricity problems are fixed.

The 70-year-old market, accommodating 21 shops, was demolished in November 2002 by the BBMP which took two years to allocate Rs 80 lakh for the construction of a new market. The construction began in 2004 but got delayed thus escalating the cost by Rs 60,00,000. The new market was ready in 2020 but the inauguration was delayed due to the delay in completing some infrastructure-related works.

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On the wire

Nandi Durga Road

On Nandi Durga Road Extension (Ward 63), electric poles are easily accessible to the public, with cables being added or removed without any formal permission from authorities.

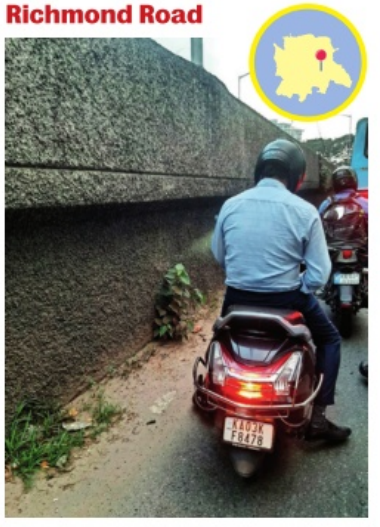
Trash trouble

Victoria Layout

Garbage on Palmgrove Cross Road in Victoria Layout remains uncleared for two weeks despite multiple complaints and no action from authorities.

Silt happens

Richmond Road



Silt buildup along Richmond Road has been left unattended for so long that shrubs are now growing in the debris.

BM WoW Wednesday
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Pray, where did the gold go?

Promising to ward off black magic, fortune-teller swindles home makers

A 45-year-old fortune teller was arrested near the Bommanahalli bus stand, for allegedly stealing 115 grams of gold and valuables from a woman, under the pretext of performing a pooja.

The accused, identified as BM Venkataramana, was detained by the police after he was found roaming suspiciously in the same area.

Upon interrogation, the police recovered gold valuables worth Rs 8 lakh, which were pawned at a gold shop in Chintamani. His arrest also solved a house theft case, which was reported last year. According to the police, his modus operandi was to approach home makers and claim that someone has performed black magic on their house and a puja has to be done to ward off the evil.

In this case reported last March, a homemaker was asked to put her gold valuables in a pot which he called 'puja procedure'. The accused later handed over

some other pot to her after diverting her attention, which was covered with vermilion and turmeric and rice grains.

The accused then asked her to keep the pot for a few hours in front of God's portrait while he escaped. The home maker followed the instructions, and later when she checked the pot, the valuables were missing, so she filed a complaint.

Driver-turned burglar arrested

The Bellandur police have arrested a 31-year-old cab driver, Siddu Kuppanna, for allegedly stealing valuables worth ₹45 lakh from his former employer's house using duplicate keys.

Siddu had worked as a driver for a private firm owner for a year before quitting in February last year following a reprimand over a minor issue. He had left the car's parking lights on, which the owner viewed as negligence. Feeling humiliated and upset over the incident and the withholding of a few days' salary, Siddu is said to have planned revenge. Before resigning, he secretly made a duplicate key to the house's front door and waited for the right moment to act.

His opportunity came when the family left for Bidadi for two days. Upon their return on December 23, they discovered that valuables worth ₹45 lakh were missing and immediately filed a police complaint. Initially, suspicion fell on the domestic help, but the police cleared her after questioning and confirming her innocence.

Further investigations, including reviewing CCTV footage, revealed Siddu loitering suspiciously around the house. When the police apprehended and questioned him, he reportedly confessed to the crime.

The authorities recovered 200 grams of gold that Siddu had pawned at a gold shop, along with the remaining 482 grams of stolen gold, amounting to a total of 683 grams. —BMB

HC upholds gender equality

The Karnataka High Court has advocated for a gender-neutral society that eliminates the division of responsibilities based on sex or gender, emphasising equal treatment for both men and women in household matters and professional settings. The court rejected a wife's petition to transfer a divorce case, stating that the husband's convenience must be considered. The court clarified that a case transfer cannot be granted solely because a woman files the request.

Justice Dr Chillakur Sumalatha stated, "Constitutionally, a female has got equal rights as that of a male. As a matter of fact, women are the primary victims in most situations, but that does not mean that men are not affected by the cruelty of women...Therefore, there is a necessity for a gender-neutral society. Such a society aims to prevent the separation of duties according to sex or gender. It will focus on equal treatment of men and women both in domestic affairs and workplaces. Equality should be in its truest sense and not at the expense of either gender."

Court denies woman's plea to transfer divorce case; stresses on equality of gender in truest sense

The court highlighted that whilst protecting women's rights is crucial, society must also acknowledge the difficulties men face. The ruling came whilst dismissing a wife's petition to transfer her husband's divorce case from the Court of Senior Civil Judge, Narasimharajapura to Hosanagara Taluk, Shivamogga District. The wife cited the 130-kilometre distance to court as problematic. The husband contested the transfer, stating he was caring for their children alone, managing household duties and court appearances simultaneously. The bench noted that the husband, who has custody of the children, would face greater hardship if the case were transferred. The court emphasised that a woman's petition alone isn't sufficient grounds for case transfer, and all circumstances must be considered. The court concluded that the wife's inconvenience in attending Narasimharajapura court would not exceed the difficulties the husband and children would face if the case were transferred. Subsequently, the petition was dismissed. —BMB

SC/ST panel: Notice to govt

The Karnataka High Court issued a notice to the State government on Monday regarding a Public Interest Litigation seeking to fill the vacant chairperson position of the State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun, forming a Division Bench, issued the order responding to a petition by Srinivasa CL, who resides in Kollegal, Chamarajanagar district.

The petition highlighted that since December 9, 2022, the chairperson position has remained unfilled, hampering the commission's constitutional duties. The petitioner argued that this vacancy prevents SC/ST communities from accessing their statutory rights for grievance redressal, protection against discrimination, and affordable justice through the commission.

The petitioner highlighted that numerous complaints await consideration due to the absence of a chairperson. Additionally, public funds continue to be expended on staff salaries despite the commission's ineffectiveness without a chairperson.

The petition requested the court to direct the government to the swift appointment of a chairperson. It also sought instructions for the commission to address pending complaints within a specified timeframe and publish its yearly report on SC/ST communities' welfare in the State. —BMB

All the world's a stage, but the spotlight is on Bengaluru

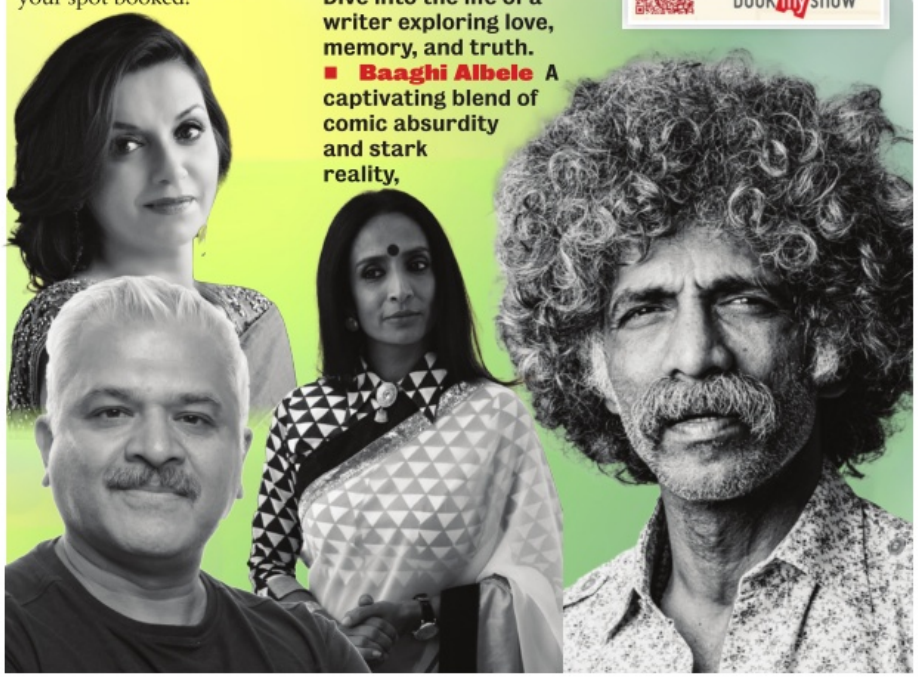
The stage is set for a grand theatre festival. A dream come true for Bengaluru's theatre-lovers, 'UNMASK, A-Fair with Theatre' is an event curated by Ventures Theatre and proudly co-hosted by Vijay Karnataka & Bangalore Mirror & E-Blitz creations. For three days, all the big names of theatre will keep you engrossed with gripping stories and soul-stirring acting.

The event that will start this Friday and continue till Sunday at St.John's Auditorium will have 30+ plays and 300 artists. What is more, there is up to 20% discount on tickets offered from January 23 -- so get your spot booked!

Some plays that you can't afford to miss:

- **Siachen** Aditya Rawal's survival drama at the world's highest battlefield with Zahan Kapoor, premiering in Bengaluru. Directed by Makarand Deshpande, this 5-time META-nominated masterpiece is unmissable.
- **A Judgement Error??** An intense medical drama exploring life-changing judgments and decisions, guaranteed to leave you breathless.
- **Autobiography** A brand-new play directed and performed by Lillete Dubey, with Denzil Smith, Suchitra Pillai, and more. Dive into the life of a writer exploring love, memory, and truth.
- **Baaghi Albele** A captivating blend of comic absurdity and stark reality, directed by Atul Kumar, featuring Ayesha Raza, Ujjwal Chopra, and others. Premiering in Bengaluru.
- **The Scent of a Man** A comedy about love, marriage, and the chaos in between. Directed by Ashvin Gidwani, starring Ashwin Mushran, Suchitra Pillai, and more, this will leave you in splits.
- **Piyakkad** Makarand Deshpande's witty solo performance exploring the divine drunkard doctrine, premiering in Bengaluru, is humourous and philosophical.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS ON bookmyshow



Formation of education reform groups sparks mixed reactions

Education activists weigh in on this move; while some welcome it, others question need for new taluk-level reform committees, noting existing local groups working for betterment of children

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Education activists are expressing mixed reactions to the formation of Education Reform Committees at the taluk levels in the state. While some have welcomed the decision, others have questioned the need for such committees, as many committees have already existed for the betterment of education for students at taluks.

A circular was issued on January 18 by the Director of School Education for the formation of taluk-level Education Reform Committees, which are expected to address challenges including enrolment, regular attendance and increasing learning outcomes for students. According to the circular, the committee to be chaired by local MLAs will include other members, including the tahsildar, the executive officer of the taluk panchayat, the block education officer, head teachers of schools with the highest enrollments in the taluk, and principals of government pre-university colleges with significant student strength. Five members from scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, other backward communities, women, and a graduate from general category.

Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust described the formation of such a committee as a commendable initiative. He said it is crucial to include representatives from NGOs working in education at the taluk level to ensure the success of these committees, as this collaboration can provide valuable insights and expertise, ultimately benefiting the students. "Many NGOs have extensive experience working with local communities, understanding their specific challenges, and developing effective programs to address them. Including NGO representatives can also help in identifying local needs and developing contextual solutions," said Rao.

'These taluk-level Education Reform Committees, once formed, are expected to address challenges including enrolment, regular attendance and increased learning outcomes for students' (file photo)

Rao said that efforts must be made to submit regular reports to the Child Rights Commission to guarantee that the reforms align with the Right to Education Act's provisions and incorporate the commission's guidelines. "However, it's concerning to note that the presence of political persons in the committee may hinder its effectiveness. It is essential to maintain the committee's independence and impartiality to ensure that decisions are made solely in the best interest of the students. By incorporating these suggestions and maintaining the committee's independence, this committee can become a powerful tool for improving education outcomes and ensuring that all students receive a quality education," he added.

> **"Formation of this committee will affect functioning of local committees that are already working for students' welfare in rural areas** – Dr Niranjan Aradhya, education expert

Dr VP Niranjan Aradhya, an education expert, demanded that the government withdraw the circular immediately. He emphasised the need of implementing the RTE Act 2009 and the State Government Rules 2012 by preparing a blueprint instead of forming Education Reform Committees in taluks. "The formation of Education Reforms Committees is against Article 21 of the Constitution and it will affect the functioning of local committees that are already functioning for the betterment and welfare of students in rural areas," Dr Aradhya said.

Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, expressed concerns over giving importance to local MLAs, saying the provision to nominate five members will ruin the purpose of the committees.

HC lawyer alleges harassment by tax officer

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Chennammanakere Achukattu Police registered a first information report (FIR) against a Commercial Tax Officer for misbehaving and assaulting a High Court lawyer on January 9. The police have registered the FIR under Section 115(2), 351(2), 352, 74, and 75 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which pertains to 'voluntarily causing hurt,' assault or use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty and sexual harassment.

The victim, however, told BM the police have not taken action against the alleged accused Varun Mallik days after registering the FIR. According to her, she met Mallik when he approached her for filing a divorce case against his wife in September 2023. "Both agreed not to press for divorce and are living in a house. I used to handle Mallik's other cases. Meanwhile, he took Rs 7 lakh from me citing some emergency. He then began misbehaving with me during his visits to my office," she told BM.

She said she asked him to stop, but he threatened to falsely tell her husband that he was having an affair with her. "When I demanded that he return my money, he began abusing me. I informed his wife, who advised me to visit her house. After seeing me at his house, he became aggressive and assaulted me," said the victim.

Chennammanakere Achukattu Police Inspector said that a notice has been served to the accused. "We are investigating the case," the Police Inspector said.

Mediations & nuisance

Meanwhile the woman said Mallik's friends have been contacting her over the phone advising her not to go ahead with her complaint. According to her, a Excise Department staffer and BBMP engineer have been coaxing her to withdraw the complaint. "They continue to call me over the phone. It has become a nuisance for me," she said.

BM tried to reach out to Mallik, but his phone remained unavailable.

'Irregular ward meetings leave key civic issues unaddressed in Whitefield'

| Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Whitefield residents have expressed frustration over the irregularity of ward committee meetings in their area. They say these meetings, which are meant to address local issues, are either not held regularly or lack proper communication about their schedules. Ward committee meetings are said to be essential platforms where residents can discuss civic problems, seek solutions, and interact with local authorities. However, in Whitefield, residents claimed that these meetings, which are to be conducted every Wednesday, are not taking place as mandated, leaving several pressing issues unaddressed.

Key problems

Key problems such as bad roads, garbage mismanagement, water supply issues, and lack of streetlights have been piling up without proper resolutions. "The irregularity of these meetings is making it harder for us to voice our concerns. Weekly meetings are not held in most wards, and even where they are held, it is only when the Zonal Commissioner is expected to attend," members from Whitefield citizens ward committees told BM.

Recently in November, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) announced that ward meetings will be held by Nodal Officers every Wednesday and that the Zonal Commissioners of each Zone shall attend these meetings on rotation, attending a meeting in every ward at least once a month or in two months; however, that hasn't been happening efficiently, the residents alleged.

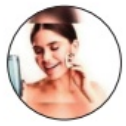
A huge pothole on Whitefield Road in October, 2024

> **"There needs to be transparency on how these meetings are conducted & on decisions made during meetings. Otherwise, it defeats purpose of entire process** – A resident

A resident pointed out that even when meetings are conducted, minutes of the meetings are not properly recorded or shared with attendees, further reducing accountability. "There needs to be transparency in how these meetings are conducted and what decisions are made. Otherwise, it defeats the purpose of the entire process," the resident added. "Meetings must be conducted efficiently. Without regular updates on the progress of issues raised and a clear timeline for their resolution, these meetings become pointless and a waste of time and money. There needs to be a time-bound list of action items to ensure accountability and meaningful outcomes," pointed out another resident.

Some even pointed out that earlier the meetings were held on Saturdays, which was easier for residents to attend the meeting. However, now that it is held midweek, it is difficult for most of them to even make it to the meeting, as many are working. "Scheduling ward committee meetings on a Wednesday is unfair, as it prevents working professionals from attending. Why can't they plan it on a weekend? Moreover, not all officials are showing up for these meetings. It feels like a mere tick-box exercise rather than a genuine effort to address and fix issues," said another Whitefield resident.

HEALTH TIP: Too much heat on your hair can cause the cuticles of your hair strands to be stripped off or break away from the surrounding fibres



Toners balance the skin's pH after cleansing and remove any residual makeup or cleanser

BangaloreMirror | 7
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
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Food, medicine that can change your skin colour – sometimes permanently

HUE DONE IT

When an 84-year-old man in Hong Kong went to hospital with an enlarged prostate, doctors were startled to see that his skin – and even the whites of his eyes – had turned silver-grey. A deeper investigation revealed silver deposits permeating his tissues, turning him a hue more often reserved for science fiction.

Far from a one-off oddity, in 2007 press reports described Paul Karason as a "blue man" after he attempted to cure sinus and skin problems by ingesting a homemade silver chloride solution – and there are many other examples.

These striking cases reveal a profound truth: our bodies can display the residue of what we consume. The adage "you are what you eat" usually refers to overall health and nutrition, but that phrase can be startlingly literal when our skin takes on unexpected colours.

The cases above illustrate dramatic instances of the condition known as argyria, in which silver particles accumulate in the body.

Silver was once a mainstay in medical treatments for its antimicrobial properties. But modern evidence shows that consuming or absorbing too much can transform one's skin in ways that seldom fade. In argyria, silver ions circulate through the bloodstream and become embedded in the dermis, a layer beneath the surface where the body cannot easily clear them. This is the layer that tattoo pigments reside in.

A similar phenomenon, albeit rarer, is chrysiasis, in which gold deposits infiltrate the skin. Historically, gold-based therapies were occasionally prescribed for inflammatory disorders, and in some cases, patients who received these treatments developed a distinctive slate-grey or grey-purple discolouration that, much like argyria, could not be easily undone.

Pigments from the plate

Orange, yellow and red pigments exert the most influence over skin, and orange seems to reign supreme. This shade, often associated with carrots, sweet potatoes and pumpkins, comes from carotenoids, a class of pigments naturally found in plants.

Carotenoid pigments are fat soluble. When consumed, they are absorbed in the small intestine and transported via lipoproteins in the bloodstream to be stored primarily in fat-rich tissues, including the subcutaneous layer of the skin. This storage gives the skin a characteristic golden hue, most notably when carotenoid-rich foods are consumed in high quantities.

Of the many carotenoids found in nature, beta-carotene is the star player: a strong orange tint and high "bioavailability" – the term used to describe drug absorption – make it particularly influential.

Humans metabolise (break down) carotenoids in a selective way. Enzymes in the intestines and liver turn beta-carotene into vitamin A, which is crucial for vision, a healthy immune system and healthy skin.

However, not all ingested beta-carotene undergoes this transformation. Excess amounts remain in their pigment form and are deposited in the skin, particularly in areas like the palms of the hands and soles of the feet, where the thicker layer of skin highlights the pigment's presence.

The reason the skin turns orange lies in the chemical structure of carotenoids. Beta-carotene's molecular makeup absorbs light in the blue spectrum, reflecting orange light back to our eyes. Other carotenoids, such as lutein and zeaxanthin (found in leafy green vegetables), which lean toward yellow, are less conspicuous because they are either less abundant in the diet or not as prominently stored in the skin.

Research has shown that a carotenoid-rich diet, which can enhance a healthy golden glow, is often perceived as more attractive than sun-induced tanning. But moderation is key. The 90s juice brand Sunny Delight never really recovered from the controversy of orange-stained Sunny D kids.

Naturally occurring dietary pigments such as anthocyanins, betalains and chlorophyll offer many health benefits, but rarely leave a mark.

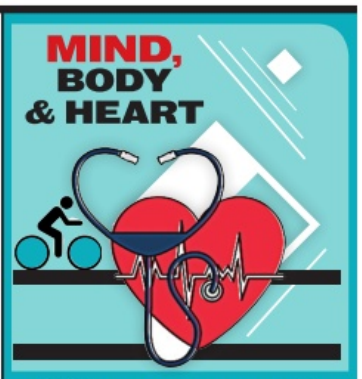
Anthocyanins, found in berries, red cabbage and purple carrots, provide the deep reds, purples and blues we associate with these foods. Known for their antioxidant properties, they are water-soluble, meaning they are quickly metabolised and therefore unlikely to leave a mark on the skin.

Similarly, betalains, the pigments responsible for rich reds and yellows, offer detoxifying and anti-inflammatory benefits but are excreted by the body without a visible effect on skin tone. Excess ingestion may, however, cause urinary and faecal colour change.

These colourful tales carry more than an aesthetic message. They highlight the fine balance required in our relationship with the substances we ingest. From wholesome pigments to unintended consequences, they serve as a vivid reminder that while food may be medicine and may be transformative, we are, quite literally, what we eat.

Sunlight compounds the effect by triggering a process called photoreduction, which turns silver ions into metallic silver or related compounds. As a result, affected lighter skins adopt a bluish or greyish tinge. And in brown and black skin, the discolouration may appear as a darker grey or slate-blue hue, effectively creating an inadvertent tattoo.

(By Michelle Spear, University of Bristol, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Sunscreen in winter

All-weather friend
"A common misperception is that sunscreen is only necessary during the summer. On the other hand, sunscreen is as crucial in winter as it is in summer. Wearing sun protection can help you keep your skin safe and healthy in a variety of ways," says Ritika Jayaswal, Founder and CEO at Nourish Mantra.

Prevent early ageing
When broad-spectrum sunscreen is not used to protect your skin, UV rays alter DNA at the cellular level. Since this damage occurs at the dermal level, it may not show up until years later.

Keep skin healthy
Sun's UVA and UVB rays accelerate skin aging and decrease the body's natural production of collagen. They also reduce your skin's elasticity. Sunscreens help moisturise dry skin and shield it from harmful UV radiation.

UV rays through windows
Even when you're indoors in the winter, UV rays can still penetrate windows and cause sun damage because glass cannot block UVA radiation.

Winter sports
If you are a skier, snowboarder, or ski tour enthusiast on vacation, you should protect your skin by using sunscreen while in the mountains. This is because UV radiation increases by 5% for every thousand feet above sea level. When you're in the mountains, wear protective clothing and consistently reapply sunscreen.

Ozone layer is thinner
In winter, the ozone layer is weaker. Your skin is therefore more vulnerable to UV radiation since it absorbs fewer UV photons.

High altitudes
The intensity of UV radiation rises dramatically if you live in or visit regions with higher elevations in the winter. This increases the need for sunscreen. —**Femina**

Special action against e-commerce vehicle violations

All Traffic Police Stations of the West Division have intensified action against drivers and riders of e-commerce vehicles flouting traffic rules. A total of 255 cases were registered under the Motor Vehicles Act, with fines amounting to ₹1,73,300.

The operation focused on a range of traffic violations by e-commerce vehicle drivers and riders. A total of 54 cases were registered for wrong parking and parking in no-parking zones, leading to a fine of ₹45,900.

Additionally, 150 cases were reported for violations of one-way and no-entry rules, with fines totaling ₹77,000.

There were 26 instances of footpath riding, resulting in fines of ₹13,000, and 13 cases of footpath parking, which attracted a fine of ₹7,000. Furthermore, 12 offenders were penalised for using mobile phones while driving, amounting to a total fine of ₹14,000.

In total, the operation brought in ₹1,73,300 in fines. Police also took the opportunity to educate the offenders on the importance of following traffic rules. **BMB**

Employers can't retain gratuity to recover losses due to misappropriation: HC

The High Court has determined that employers cannot retain or forfeit gratuity amounts of dismissed employees if no proceedings have been initiated to recover alleged losses caused by misappropriation to public institutions.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj dismissed Central Warehousing Corporation's petition challenging the Controlling Authority's order. The authority had directed the corporation to pay GC Bhat a gratuity of Rs 7,88,165 with 10% interest from December 12, 2013, until actual payment. The corporation argued that the respondent's dismissal was due to serious misappropriation charges, causing losses of Rs 1,71,68,033. They claimed entitlement to withhold gratuity and adjust it against their losses.

The corporation contended that the authority's order rewarded illegal actions and raised concerns about the application being filed seven years after dismissal. The court observed that whilst no recovery action was taken, the amounts due to the respondent were considered forfeited, resulting in non-payment.

The court stated: "Whenever any employee was to be dismissed on account of misappropriation or causing losses to the employer, it is always available for the employer to initiate proceedings for recovery of the losses, which have been caused to the employer as also the amount misappropriated from the employer. Suspension from service and later on dismissal from service, would not in any manner restitute the losses caused to the employer."

The bench clarified: "Dismissal is only a punishment meted out by the employer after following the necessary procedure as against the delinquent employee.

It was for the employer to have initiated proceedings for recovery of the losses, which had been caused and during those proceedings, to forfeit and or adjust the monies due to the delinquent employee after holding necessary proceedings by providing an opportunity to the delinquent employee to contest those proceedings."

The court noted other officers' negligence in not pursuing recovery of losses. The ruling stated: "The Corporation could not without initiating proceedings for recovery, retain the gratuity amount, without such proceedings being initiated, the contention of the employer that losses have been caused will only remain a contention and is not one which has been adjudicated upon and orders passed." The court added: "No proceedings having been initiated against respondent No.1 for recovery of the alleged losses. The question of the employer retaining the gratuity amount and forfeiting the same, would not arise."

The deadline for gratuity payment was extended to January 31, 2025. The court advised the management to implement procedures for recovering losses from dismissed employees in future cases.

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I, Dokala Gopi Srinivasu R/O A-1002, Godrej Avenues, Singanayakanahalli, Blr-64. I changed my Minor son name from Dokala Balakrishna Shashanka Kartikeya to Dokala Kartikeya for all future purposes

I, SUMANTH KANTHAVAR SUNDAR S/o Kanthavar Narayana Rao Sundar, Residing at No 71, Sri Raksha Kanthvar Enclave, Govindappa Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore -560004, Have changed my name to SUMANTH KANTHAVAR S/o Late Sundar K N, vide affidavit dtd 21/01/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Madusudan Devraj R/o No.607, 16th main, 3rd cross, Jnanaganganagar, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Madhusudhan Devaraj (Madhusudhan D) Affidavit Dt.21/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, CHETHANA, Residing at No. 3-135, Shankaranarayana Village, Udupi, Karnataka Pin 576227, have changed my name to CHETHAN JOGI, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, SUDHINDRA.I s/o Inderchand residing at no-98, 2ndmain, 7thcross, chamarajpet, bengaluru-560018, have changed my name to SUDHINDERKUMAR vide affidivate dated 23.12.2024 before notary Mamatha MK

I IRFAN PASHA FAROQ S/o Mohammed Faroq R/o No 06 7th Cross Vinayakanagar old Guddadahalli Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to MOHAMMED IRFAN PASHA for all Purposes

I, Sardar S/o Anwar Ali R/o No.19, 2nd main 2nd cross Umarbagh layout, JP nagar, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to SARDAR ANWAR Affidavit Dt.21/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, JAYA LAKSHMI SREENIVAS KARANAM R/a No 416, 4th Main, 4th stage, BEML Layout, Near Best Club, Rajarajeshwarinagar Bangalore-560098. I have changed my name to JAYA JOISH. vide affidavit dated 13/01/2025 Sworn before Notary H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Kishore. K.N
R/o No.930,
KRS Agrahara, Kunigal Town, Tumkur District, Karnataka-572130, I have changed my name from
Kishore Kunigal
to
Kishore Kunigal Nanjudappa
Vide affidavit sworn before Notary B.R.Narayana Gowda dated 07.01.2025.

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Why conmen slip through the net

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Recovery hindered

According to Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor, the low recovery rates are primarily due to geographical and legal obstacles. Cross-border investigations, while essential, require significant time, effort, and resources, often outweighing the funds recovered. Moreover, cybercriminals use sophisticated methods, such as fake SIM cards, to mask their locations, further complicating recovery efforts.

Cybercriminals often operate across state or national borders, making it hard for investigators to track and apprehend them. The need for interstate or international collaboration adds complexity and drives up investigation costs. Jurisdictional issues further delay progress, as investigators require permissions and coordination from various authorities.

Dr Harsha gave an illustration that when an officer needs to pursue a cybercriminal in another state, the expenses for travel, accommodation, and other logistics can exceed ₹60,000 per case, even if the victim's loss is just ₹50,000. In more complex cases involving large sums, such as a ₹1 crore loss and the suspect being located abroad, the investigation becomes far more expensive. The process can incur upwards of ₹10 lakh in expenses, including embassy permissions and international coordination.

Legal Inconsistencies

In addition to the financial burden, the inconsistency in geographical restrictions and geographical legislation across different regions and countries further exacerbates the challenge. These discrepancies often lead to delays or case dismissals, making it difficult to recover stolen funds.

Harsha says, "While some cases may result in the apprehension of a single criminal, that arrest can potentially solve up to 100 other related cases." Experts emphasise that reporting cybercrime cases is crucial. If incidents remain unreported, even the apprehension of a criminal does not guarantee justice for the unregistered victims. By default, cases should be registered on the government's cybercrime portal, as incidents might span multiple locations. For example, a single culprit could commit five crimes in Chennai, four in Bengaluru, and seven in Hyderabad. If one suspect is apprehended, it could help resolve numerous cases across these cities.

Helpline and collaboration

The cybercrime helpline, 1930, has proven to be a valuable tool in quickly freezing fraudulent transactions, preventing further losses. Collaboration between law enforcement agencies, banks, and financial institutions also plays an essential role in preventing the movement of stolen funds.

 # Dua has creepy fan encounter

Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa, who recently performed in India, had a harrowing encounter when fans snuck into her hotel in Santiago, Chile and waited for her outside her bedroom door

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Father-daughter movie

Vijaya Kumar aka Duniya Vijay and his daughter Ritanya are acting in a movie that highlights struggle for land and survival. Vijay and Ritanya are playing the father and the daughter in the movie – Landlord.

Landlord is being bankrolled by KV Sathya Prakash, who makes a comeback after a gap of 13 years. His son Sooraj Gowda is looking after the production of the movie. It is directed by Jadesha K Hampi.

"The movie is set in a 1990s village. It revolves around incidents that took place during the 1980s and 1990s in a village in the Kolar region. Masti and Srikanth have written dialogues for this movie. Duniya Vijay sir evinced a keen interest when I narrated the script to him. Vijay sir agreed when I suggested Ritanya play the daughter in the movie," said Hampi.

Duniya Vijay said the script by Jadesha Hampi is interesting. Ritanya said she was very happy to share the screen with her father.

Love song released

After receiving good feedback for the motion poster and a song, the team of Apayavide Echarike (meaning: Danger Ahead) has released one more song – Churuku Notave – written by Abhijith Thirthahalli. With this, Abhijith has proved his talent in writing lyrics apart from direction. Sunad Gowtham has composed the music for the song, sung by Rajat Hegde.

Thirthahalli is directing this movie that was shot in a dense forest. Its teaser, which was released recently, has received good feedback. The teaser is full of horror and suspense elements. The movie revolves around five elements such as earth, air, water, fire and space. It is said these elements are represented by different characters.

Bankrolled by producers VG Manjunath and Poornima M Gowda under the Yashaswini Creations banner, the movie has music and cinematography by Sunaad Gowtham. The movie is set to arrive in theatres on February 7 across the state.

Vikash Uthaiah, who earned fame for his sterling performance in tele serial Annaiah, and Radha Bhagavathi, known for acting in tele serial Amrutha Dhare, are the lead pair in the movie.

New chapter

PC visits Balaji temple; tight-lipped about upcoming film

Priyanka Chopra recently arrived in India, sparking rumours about her upcoming collaboration with SS Rajamouli's SSMB 29 starring Mahesh Babu. The actress teased a "new chapter" by sharing photos from her visit to Chilkur Balaji Temple in Telangana.

Priyanka shared pictures and videos from her visit to Chilkur Balaji Temple on Instagram. She looked elegant in a light blue salwar suit, covering her head with a dupatta in one photo. In another, she was seen conversing with the pandit, and a video showed her walking inside the temple with her team.

In the caption, Priyanka wrote: "With the blessings of Shri Balaji a new chapter begins. May we all find peace in our hearts and prosperity and abundance all around us. Gods grace is infinite. Thank you @upasanakaminenikonidela."

Meanwhile, the actress hasn't confirmed her role in Rajamouli's upcoming film yet, though fans are speculating she might announce it soon. She recently traveled from Toronto to Hyderabad and shared her journey on Instagram, using an Om emoji and the song 'Roar of RRR,' which sparked excitement among followers.

The details of Rajamouli's upcoming film, following the success of RRR, are being kept secret. It's expected to be an action-adventure, similar to Indiana Jones. The film was launched in Hyderabad with a pooja ceremony, but no photos were released to keep Mahesh Babu's look confidential.. **— ETimes**

Saif Ali Khan home from hospital days after knife attack

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan left a hospital in India's financial capital Mumbai on Tuesday, less than a week after he suffered knife injuries in a scuffle with an intruder at his house, local media reported.

Khan, 54, was stabbed six times by the intruder during an attempted burglary at his home after midnight on Thursday. He had surgery after sustaining stab wounds to his spine, neck and hands, doctors said.

Khan was discharged from hospital on Tuesday afternoon. He smiled at TV cameras from his car and waved his bandaged hand.

On Sunday, police arrested a man, thought to be a citizen of Bangladesh, in connection with the attack and were continuing to investigate the crime.

Meanwhile, the 'Parineeta' actor has now employed the services of actor Ronit Roy's security firm. Although, Ronit Roy did not spill any beans regarding the kind of security provided to Saif Ali Khan, nevertheless, he said "We are already here with Saif. He is doing fine now, and has come back." For the unversed, Ronit Roy is the owner of "Ace Security and Protection" agency (AceSquad Security Services LLP). Following the incident, several members of the film fraternity voiced concern regarding the growing threat to security. **— Agencies**

Kashyap's Hollywood debut

Actor Kashyap Shangari, who is known for 'The Fame Game', 'Made In Heaven' and 'Sheher Lakhot', is gearing up for his Hollywood debut with 'Inheritance'. The actor has now opened up about his unique experiences on set.

.He also shared his experience of working with actress Phoebe Dynevor of 'Bridgeton' fame.

Talking about the same, the actor said, "The process was breezy. It was a pleasure to work with someone who is so well-versed and so well-prepared with the craft. She brought fresh energy on set and I felt I was with another actor who is excited about the project and not a huge international star".

The actor also expressed his admiration for Neil Burger's directorial style, and said that his directorial style is empowering and nourishing for actors. He also heaped praise on the vision of both Neil Burger and Olien Steinhauer in putting together a thriller that transcends geographical boundaries and focuses on the intricacies of human nature.

He said they created the most enabling and nourishing set. **—IANS**

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ARABIC TASAWWUF COME ALIVE - Saif Al Ali (UAE) with Aly El Helbawy (Egypt)

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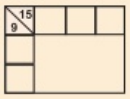
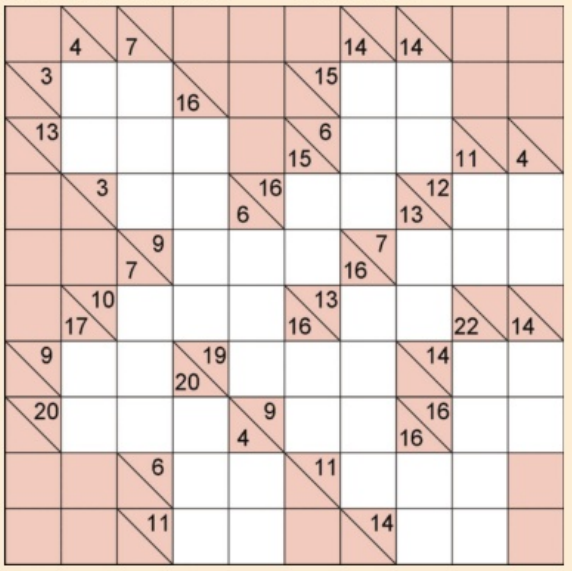
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

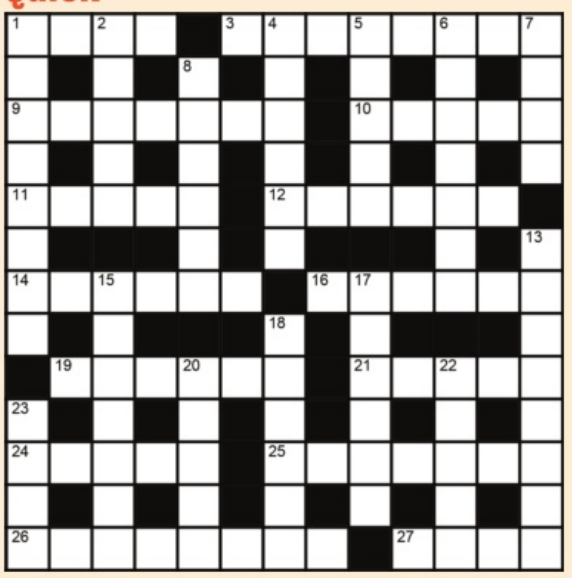


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Wander without settled destination (4)
3 Not yet defeated (8)
9 Mentally confused (5-2)
10 Flowed away (5)
11 Mr Starr of The Beatles (5)
12 Express, manifest or display (6)
14 Join the army? (6)
16 Abut or border on (6)
19 Opposite of acid (6)
21 Matter (5)
24 Moving (5)
25 Egyptian king (7)
26 Pampered or fondled (8)
27 Marsh plant (4)

DOWN

1 Commented, said or noted (8)
2 Female fox (5)
4 Italian city (6)
5 Tropical resin (5)
6 Leaves for smoking (7)
7 Central point (4)
8 Detestable (6)
13 Seized or grabbed (8)
15 Learner drivers display them (1-6)
17 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
18 Easy to do (6)
20 Accede (5)
22 Czarist decree (5)
23 Undercover cop, in short (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS H

OQSZIMSXQR, SFX KCQR AKDXL SK DFZTF IMC JFKOQE MJAZLX ZJ SFMS DFZTF FX XBXLTZJXJ KYXL FZIJXQV.

Linemaro

It's not my fault that I fell in love. You are the one who tripped me

Mindchow

Listen and Silent are spelt with the same letters

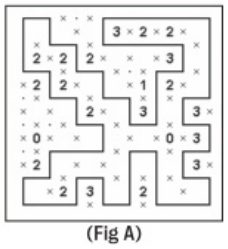
Joke of the day

I hate it when people ask me what I see myself doing in 5 years. It's not like I have 2020 vision

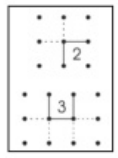
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

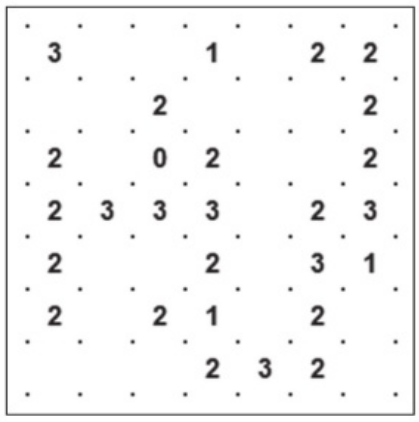


(Fig B) Not Allowed

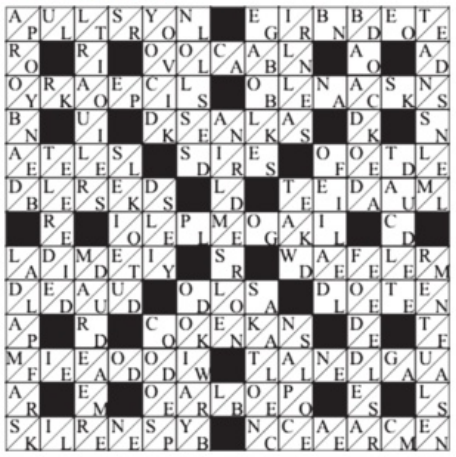
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



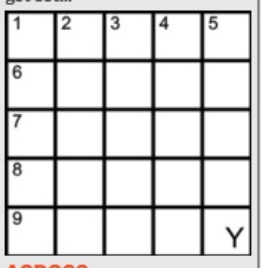
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

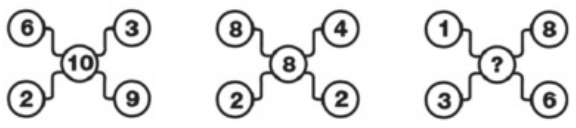
1 Glad I; 6 Co let; 7 Shoot; 8 Ana so; 9 Plyer

DOWN

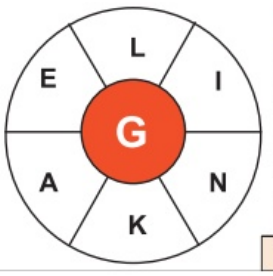
1 Arhat; 2 No lee; 3 Go pol; 4 Lac it; 5 Y Sods

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5						4	
7	8		3		1		9	5
		3				1		
8			7		2			6
	6			4			1	
2			5		3			4
		8				3		
5	3		9		4		7	1
	2						6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

1 5 8 8

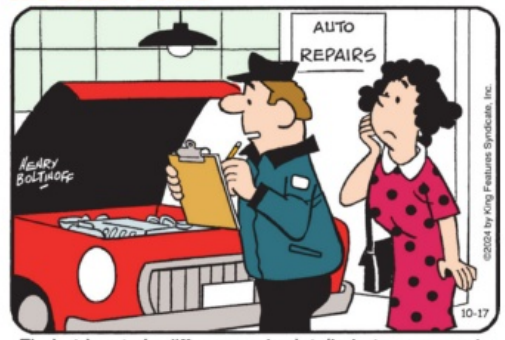
Medium = 3

9 8 3 1

Hard = 35

2 6 7 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Man's hair is shorter. 3. Light is moved. 4. License plate is smaller. 5. Pencil is moved. 6. Cap is different.

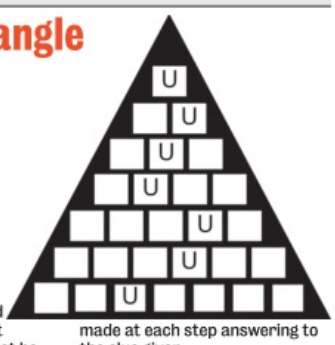
Riddler

Fill in the blank with a word that rhymes with one of these three words, is a synonym of another one of the three words and is an anagram of the last of the three words.

Grow ____ General Charge

Alpha triangle

1 Universal, abbr.
2 Et ___ Brute
3 Not at home
4 Eject from office
5 Reconnoitre
6 Voracious insect
7 Ophthalmologist

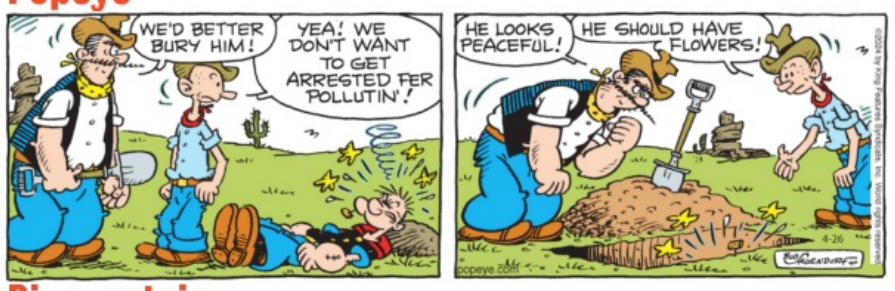


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

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Which one has the fewest strings?
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Diamond Lil

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I'M GOING AS A MILE MARKER
WHAT'LL YOU BE WEARING?
A 5,280-FOOT SHARPIE SUIT
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Hart of the city

I'M SORRY I SNAPPED AT YOU, MOM. I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY SLEEP.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME.
MAYBE IT'S PUBERTY. YOUR HORMONES AFFECT A LOT OF THINGS.
IS EVERY UNEXPLAINED THING CAUSED BY PUBERTY?
AT YOUR AGE, YES.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel a sense of dullness and experience hidden fears that might make you anxious. You may struggle to trust anyone. It is recommended to practice meditation or chant prayers to overcome these unfounded fears. With the support of the elder's blessings, by late evening, you will likely emerge from this troubling situation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may be busy at work today. Your network is likely to expand, and through these connections, you may secure a significant business deal. A partnership could spark innovation, and you may receive investments that will boost your business in the near future. Your emotional bond with your spouse will strengthen.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you might find yourself in a state of self-reflection, which will boost your confidence. Your focus on your goals is now clearer, and you may find success in achieving them. Your creativity could also increase, and you may develop an interest in art, movies, and real-life objects. By the end of the day, you will feel satisfied with your life. Your opponents are likely to be under control now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may use your creativity to renovate your home or office. Your focus on your goals will be strong, but overworking could lead to mental fatigue. This may in turn cause anxiety and stress, which might impact your domestic life. Students are advised to stay focused and dedicated in their studies, avoiding distractions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you might feel dissatisfied as those around you may not offer cooperation. It's important to stay patient. You are advised to be cautious and read documents carefully before signing contracts. Avoid making unnecessary investments that could hinder your progress. Students are advised to approach their studies with patience.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you will feel enthusiastic and more focused, which could accelerate your delayed projects. Your team members may assist you in starting a new project that could lead to profits in the future. You may also need to take short trips related to family matters. Job seekers might hear good news regarding employment opportunities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you will likely be focused on family matters and may make important decisions on the domestic front. It is advised that you avoid arguments in personal matters as they could disrupt harmony at home. It's recommended to trust your intuition before making any investments in business.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your inner strength will inspire new innovations at work. You may secure a big order in your family business, fostering growth in the future. New job responsibilities may keep you busy, and job seekers are likely to land a good opportunity. Your relationship with your spouse will improve, helping maintain peace in family life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may feel dull today as your health might not be in the best shape. Anxiety and restlessness could make you nervous. It's advisable to postpone major investments in business or real estate. You are also advised to avoid long-distance travel and driving in a rush. Meditation could help you manage these stressful situations.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Blessings from elders will bring you happiness today, and your investments will likely yield profits. Any previous losses may turn into gains, boosting your savings and bank balance. You may also consider investing in your children's future. At home, you could enjoy some delicious food, and any issues related to your throat, teeth, ears, or nose may be resolved now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the blessings of elders will bring you patience and strong focus toward your work. Your parents' health will improve, and you may spend time with elders at home. You could also meet someone influential who may assist you professionally. Romantic moments will enhance harmony in your domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will feel spiritually inclined and may help those in need. You could plan to donate to a charity or religious place. Your good deeds will contribute to success in difficult projects. You may sense a divine presence guiding you through unpredictable situations, and your interest in the occult might grow. Students are likely to enjoy in-depth studies.

KIDZONE

Ira Mathure, Bengaluru

Kenisha R, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= ((3)^4/3-(3*4)^3/4-(5^2)^1/2)^1/2
= (3*4-3^3-5^1)^1/2
= (81-27-5)^1/2 = (49)^1/2 = 7

BULL'S EYE
agile, align, angel, angle, eking, gain, gale, genial, gleam, glen, king, LINKAGE, LEAKING, ling

FAST FIVE

A	L	G	I	D
H	O	O	T	S
A	N	O	A	S
T	E	L	C	O
R	E	P	L	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
Ultimately, the only power to which man should aspire is that which he exercises over himself.

STRIKE OUT

S	L	E	E	P	Y	■	N	E	A	R	M	E	■	■
A	■	M	■	O	R	L	O	P	■	E	■	S	■	■
■	S	A	T	A	N	■	L	A	N	D	A	U	■	■
M	E	A	D	O	W	■	L	A	N	D	A	U	■	■
A	■	D	■	C	O	N	A	N	■	D	■	F	■	■
L	E	A	D	■	D	O	S	■	D	O	T	E	■	■
L	I	M	E	Y	■	R	■	D	E	F	E	R	■	■
■	R	■	I	L	L	E	G	A	L	■	C	■	■	■
D	E	S	K	S	■	L	■	T	I	D	A	L	■	■
E	E	L	S	■	D	I	E	■	F	E	T	E	■	■
B	■	I	■	D	E	A	L	S	■	K	■	S	■	■
O	K	A	P	I	S	■	B	L	A	C	K	S	■	■
R	■	R	■	V	O	C	A	L	■	A	■	A	■	■
P	U	T	S	O	N	■	G	I	B	B	E	T	■	■

QUICK

R	O	V	E	■	U	N	B	E	A	T	E	N	■	■
E	■	I	■	O	■	A	■	L	■	O	■	O	■	■
M	I	X	E	D	U	P	■	E	B	B	E	D	■	■
A	■	E	■	I	■	L	■	M	■	A	■	E	■	■
R	I	N	G	O	■	E	V	I	N	C	E	■	■	■
K	■	■	■	U	■	S	■	■	■	C	■	S	■	■
E	N	L	I	S	T	■	A	D	J	O	I	N	■	■
D	■	P	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■
A	L	K	A	L	I	■	C	O	U	N	T	■	■	■
N	■	A	■	G	■	M	■	C	■	K	■	C	■	■
A	S	T	I	R	■	P	H	A	R	A	O	H	■	■
M	E	A	D	O	W	■	L	A	N	D	A	U	■	■
E	■	R	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
9. Add together the four outer numbers by two to get the middle number.

RIDDLER Enlarge
Divide this answer in each diagram.

SUDOKU

1	5	2	6	9	7	8	4	3
7	8	4	3	2	1	6	9	5
6	9	3	4	5	8	1	2	7
8	4	9	7	1	2	5	3	6
3	6	5	8	4	9	7	1	2
5	3	6	9	8	4	2	7	1
4	1	8	2	7	6	3	5	9
2	7	1	5	6	3	9	8	4
9	2	7	1	3	5	4	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Tu, Out, Oust, Scout, Locust, Oculist.

GO FIGURE
Easy
Medium
8 + 8 + 1 - 5 = 12
9 - 8 / 1 x 3 = 3
Hard
5 + 2 x 6 - 7 = 35

LOOP

KAKURO

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